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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

October 3, 1958

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

FIRST IMPRESSIONS...the warmth of your welcome as you've visited my office and as Mrs. Holden and I stood in line at the faculty dinner...the way people's eyes light up when the Graduate School is mentioned, a measure of its prestige...the eagerness of everyone connected with the School to be of help...the genuine surge of interest that is rising as more people learn about the new Training Act...the prospect that we will have a record enrollment...the prospect, too, that this will be a busy, interesting, and satisfying job. I am happy to be in it and I look forward to the day when I can greet each of you by name as Mrs. Coblenz, Mrs. Carlock, and Miss Jensen did at the faculty dinner.

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As of September 24, the total course registrations for the fall 1958 semester of the Graduate School, USDA were 3,425 as compared with 2,997 on the same day in 1957. This represents an increase of 14.2 per cent.

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AUTHORIZATION to explore implications of the new training legislation was given to us at a meeting of the General Administration Board, September 12. Members of the Board have agreed to work individually and in committees in studying areas where we may take on new responsibilities.

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SPACE FOR 20 CLASSES has been made available to us by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The classes are being held in five conference rooms on four nights a week. Two of the rooms accommodate fifty people at a time. This is the answer to a long-felt need that has become urgent as enrollments increased. It will permit more flexibility in using the space allotted to us by the Department of Agriculture. At the same time, officials in Agriculture have redoubled their efforts to find additional space for Graduate School classes.

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OUR CAMPUS EXTENDS TO FORT BELVOIR, this fall, with the inauguration of a section of our course in engineering, "Principles of Specifications." Twenty-nine students are registered for the course, which is given under contract. Benjamin Rosenzweig, our regular instructor, will teach the group at Fort Belvoir.

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AMERICA IS LOSING THE RACE WITH RUSSIA, not on military grounds, but in strengthening our culture for growth. We have lost sight of our larger purpose, "the worth of the individual." We tend to be pleased with the present, fearful of the future. We have lost interest in the future...in education.

Education is specialized in "school." We have taken away educative responsibilities from the rest of society. We have education in the terminal sense. A diploma means honorable separation from intellectual responsibilities for the rest of life. We have no provision for systematic education of adults.

In a primitive society, the whole culture is educative. The whole society is a school that begins at birth and continues to death. This is now the case in Russia.

The U.S.S.R. has a universal system of schools although only the ablest are chosen for college. Their graduates are well educated and able to speak not only in different languages but in the dialects of those languages.

There are hopeful signs in the United States...in the increasing attention both business and labor are giving to educational programs to broaden the understanding of those who take part in them.

In times when everyone who earns a living must be a specialist, we need to give special stress to education that increases cultural empathy...that enables each of us to put himself in another's position...that makes clear to each of us our unique responsibility to discover what we are like...our responsibility to share in things we don't even know are happening.

Those of you who were our guests at the faculty dinner, September 11, will recognize these quotations from Robert J. Blakely's inspiring talk.

Mr. Blakely crowded in a visit to Washington on his way home from a series of conferences in the new British West Indies Commonwealth. His plane landed at the airport after many of us had already gathered in the lounge of the Press Club.

Perhaps he gave us the clue to his remarkable drive in the parable he told on how to deal with hatred and resentment. He recalled the year he was 17 and followed the harvest, with his father's team, north from Nebraska. The weed, Canadian thistle, was a terrible scourge. The only way farmers could deal with it was to grow legumes, beneficent plants that competed with weeds for plant food, light, and water.

We are much indebted to our committee, Chairman William R. Van Dersal, Mary Louise Collings, John R. Garnett, Kay Pearson, Odilon Ponce, Ruth Carlock, and Vera Jensen, for arranging the dinner.

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AMONG THE NEW TEACHERS who joined the Graduate School in 1938 were four men, who are distinguished members of our faculty today--James P. Cavin, R. G. Hainsworth, Bennett S. White, Jr., and M. L. Wilson.

Dr. Cavin, who holds the Ph.D. degree from Harvard, is chief of the statistical and historical research branch of the Agricultural Marketing Service. He is a member of two committees in our Department of Social Sciences--general economics and applied economics. He is also a teacher with Bushrod Allin of the course, *Modern Economic Thought*.

Mr. Hainsworth, now retiring as chairman of our Department of Technology, retired this past year from the Foreign Agricultural Service, where he had served for many years as principal economic geographer.

Dr. White, who like Dr. Cavin holds the Ph.D. degree from Harvard, is assistant director in charge of economics and utilization of the State Experiment Station Division of the Agricultural Research Service. He is a member of our Department of Social Sciences Committee, chairman of the subcommittee on agricultural economics, and teaches the course, *Introduction to Marketing*.

Mr. Wilson, who retired in 1953 as director of the Federal Extension Service after a distinguished career, is now Washington representative and field agent for the New York College of Agriculture, Cornell University. With Thelma Dreis, he conducts a seminar on Changes in Contemporary Culture.

It was our great privilege to award certificates marking 20 years of service to the Graduate School to Dr. Cavin, Mr. Hainsworth, and Dr. White at the annual faculty dinner. Mr. Wilson, who could not be with us for the occasion, will receive his certificate at a later date.

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HONOR GUESTS also invited to the annual faculty dinner were the 19 students who have completed work toward certificates of accomplishment during the past school year. Not all of them could be present. In the group invited were:

Jack Boksenbom, Samuel V. Boykin, Michael La Carruba, Lucile Shaffer, and Charles A. Tocknell, who earned certificates in Accounting; Edgar Bushong, Everett W. Harris, Jr., Hershel Ray Hildreth, Jr., Stanley F. Palczewski, and Robert D. Smith, certificates in Surveying Mapping;

William L. Harrison, Jr., Lois M. Johnson, Harriet R. Quick, Jean Marie Reineke, Gordon J. Tong, certificates in Administrative Procedures; Margaret L. Harvey and Louise N. Samuel, certificates in Editorial Practices; Thomas P. Hasbrouck, certificate in Advanced Management; and William John Maloney, Jr., certificate in Public Administration.

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AS THE YEAR BEGINS you may find it helpful to be reminded that research on the learning process shows that it takes place more readily when:

- the emphasis is on the individual, his uniqueness is recognized;
- the student perceives the tasks to be accomplished;

--there are good human relations in the classroom;
--the student helps set the goals and reach them;
--the teacher draws on many resources outside himself.

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AMBASSADOR U WIN OF BURMA is a member of the course in Color Photography I taught by Oscar Rodbell in a classroom made available to us at Walter Reed Hospital. We are very much honored.

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BEST WISHES and congratulations to Board member and former student Don Paarlberg, who is leaving his post as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture to become economic advisor to President Eisenhower.

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DID YOU SEE T. Roy Reid's letter to the editor in the Washington Post of September 13? He made the point that while the District of Columbia has a larger population than many states, there is no publicly supported university in the District that compares with the Land-Grant colleges in each of the States and Territories, and he pointed to the increasing need for an institution of this type. We have had several cards from Dr. Reid since he and Mrs. Reid began their vacation trip that is taking them through the South.

Sincerely,

John B. Holden
John B. Holden
Director